

□ 1545

AMERICAN INSTITUTE IN TAIWAN FACILITIES ENHANCEMENT ACT

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3707) to authorize funds for the site selection and construction of a facility in Taipei, Taiwan suitable for the mission of the American Institute in Taiwan, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3707

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "American Institute in Taiwan Facilities Enhancement Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds that—

(1) in the Taiwan Relations Act of 1979 (22 U.S.C. 3301 et seq.), the Congress established the American Institute in Taiwan (hereafter in this Act referred to as "AIT"), a nonprofit corporation incorporated in the District of Columbia, to carry out on behalf of the United States Government any and all programs, transactions, and other relations with Taiwan;

(2) the Congress has recognized AIT for the successful role it has played in sustaining and enhancing United States relations with Taiwan;

(3) the Taipei office of AIT is housed in buildings which were not originally designed for the important functions that AIT performs, whose location does not provide adequate security for its employees, and which, because they are almost 50 years old, have become increasingly expensive to maintain;

(4) the aging state of the AIT office building in Taipei is neither conducive to the safety and welfare of AIT's American and local employees nor commensurate with the level of contact that exists between the United States and Taiwan;

(5) because of the unofficial character of United States relations with Taiwan, the Department of State is not responsible for funding the construction of a new office building for the Taipei office of AIT;

(6) AIT has made a good faith effort to set aside funds for the construction of a new office building, but these funds will be insufficient to construct a building that is large and secure enough to meet AIT's current and future needs; and

(7) because the Congress established AIT and has a strong interest in United States relations with Taiwan, the Congress has a special responsibility to ensure the AIT's requirements for safe and appropriate office quarters are met.

SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated the sum of \$75,000,000 to AIT—

(1) for plans for a new facility and, if necessary, residences or other structures located in close physical proximity to such facility, in Taipei, Taiwan, for AIT to carry out its purposes under the Taiwan Relations Act; and

(2) for acquisition by purchase or construction of such facility, residences, or other structures.

(b) LIMITATIONS.—Funds appropriated pursuant to subsection (a) may only be used if the new facility described in that subsection meets all requirements applicable to the se-

curity of United States diplomatic facilities, including the requirements in the Omnibus Diplomatic Security and Anti-Terrorism Act of 1986 (22 U.S.C. 4801 et seq.) and the Secure Embassy Construction and Counterterrorism Act of 1999 (as enacted by section 1000(a)(7) of Public Law 106-113; 113 Stat 1501A-451), except for those requirements which the Director of AIT certifies to the Committee on International Relations of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate are not applicable on account of the special statute of AIT.

(c) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Amounts appropriated pursuant to subsection (a) are authorized to remain available until expended.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PETRI). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 3707.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise in support of H.R. 3707, a bill to authorize funds for the construction or acquisition of a new facility for the American Institute in Taiwan.

I would like to thank the distinguished sponsor of the bill, the vice chairman of our committee, the chairman of the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER), for his efforts in framing this bill and in amending it to improve it further for consideration by the full committee.

Mr. Speaker, the American Institute of Taiwan serves the important function of maintaining relations with Taiwan, and the mission should be appropriately supported by the Congress. There is no doubt that the current facility is inadequate and does not meet security standards. This bill authorizes \$75 million for a suitable location for a new facility and for necessary construction costs.

We are looking forward to a long future with Taiwan and it is time to make the long-range commitment and invest in a new facility to support this relationship. Accordingly, I am urging my colleagues to support the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I provide for the RECORD information on a cost estimate done by the Congressional Budget Office on this matter:

H.R. 3707—AMERICAN INSTITUTE IN TAIWAN FACILITIES ENHANCEMENT ACT

H.R. 3707 would authorize \$75 million for the design and construction of a new facility in Taipei to be used by the American Institute in Taiwan. The American Institute in Taiwan is a nonprofit corporation that facili-

tates programs and relations between the United States and Taiwan. CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 3707 would cost \$6 million in 2001 and \$63 million over the 2001-2005 period, assuming appropriation of the authorized amount. (We estimate that the remaining \$12 million would be spent after 2005.) Because the bill would not affect direct spending or receipts, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply.

H.R. 3707 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

The CBO staff contact is Sunita D'Monte. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER).

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time and, as the author of H.R. 3707, the American Institute Enhancement Act, this Member rises in strong support of what he regards as timely and responsible legislation.

Before commenting on it, though, this Member would like to express his sincere appreciation to the Subcommittee on International Operations and Human Rights, the distinguished gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), for his much appreciated assistance in moving this bill forward so quickly and for suggested refinements that were incorporated in the bill during the markup of the Committee on International Relations.

This Member would also like to thank the distinguished chairman of the committee, the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) and the ranking minority member, the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. GEJDENSON), for supporting this bill and moving it expeditiously.

Additionally, I express my appreciation to the ranking minority member of the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), for his cosponsorship and special cooperation in expediting the consideration of this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, this Member believes it is important to note that the United States' commitment to the security and well-being of the people of Taiwan is enshrined in the Taiwan Relations Act of 1979, the TRA, a congressional initiative of that year, responding to a controversial Carter administration initiative of that previous year.

The TRA, which continues to be the guide of our unofficial relations with Taiwan, is an important document for us to consider and to reaffirm from time to time and also to reexamine to make sure that we understand exactly what it is that controls our relationship with Taiwan and, in effect, the relationship between Taiwan and the People's Republic of China.

The TRA established the American Institute in Taiwan, AIT, as a non-profit corporation to implement on behalf of the United States Government any and all programs, transactions and other relations with Taiwan. In other words, to function as our unofficial embassy in Taiwan. The current AIT facilities, which in some cases consists of aging quonset huts, are grossly inadequate and were not designed for the important functions of AIT. They were built or occupied as temporary facilities almost 50 years ago, and are increasingly difficult and expensive to maintain.

From the perspective of security, AIT fails miserably, surrounded by taller buildings and lacking adequate setbacks. Major, very cost-ineffective enhancements would be required to bring it into compliance with security requirements. In fact, it is an impossibility, and the site is entirely inappropriate for our new construction for the AIT.

Because of our unique relationship with Taiwan, characterized by the agreement itself, the State Department is not able, under routine authority, to proceed with the planning and the construction of a new facility for AIT. The Congress must specifically authorize and appropriate the necessary funds. While AIT has made a good faith effort to set aside funds for the construction of a new office building complex, these funds, while very significant, will never be sufficient for even a modest complex that is sufficient and secure enough to meet AIT's needs.

H.R. 3707, which this Member introduced, has bipartisan support. Although only recently introduced, the resolution is cosponsored by the distinguished ranking member of the committee, the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. GEJDESON), as well as other distinguished members of the committee, including the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), and the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRBACHER). The bill authorizes the appropriation of \$75 million for planning acquisition and construction of a new facility for AIT.

Over 20 years after the enactment of the Taiwan Relations Act, our unofficial relations with the people of Taiwan are stronger, more robust, and more important than ever. In order to reflect the importance of these relations, as well as for very practical reasons of efficient and secure operations, the Congress needs to act now to authorize the lengthy effort to upgrade our diplomatic facilities on Taiwan.

Mr. Speaker, recently, as is apparent to all, we have been seized with issues involving our relationship with Taiwan and China. Today, relatedly, we just considered another resolution, House Concurrent Resolution 292, that once

again congratulates the people of Taiwan on the success of their historic democratic elections. We have also been concerned by the bellicose rhetoric from Beijing that once again preceded the Taiwanese presidential election. The House also recently passed a properly amended version of the Taiwan Security Enhancement Act, while at the same time we are preparing for the upcoming debate on granting permanent normal trade relations for China as a part of the country's accession to the WTO.

In view of all these developments, now is the appropriate time to send another signal of our unshakable, long-term commitment to our critically important relations with Taiwan. We are there in Taipei with the citizens of Taiwan for as long as it takes to assure that any reunification with the mainland is voluntary and as a result of peaceful means. In the judgment of this Member, the Congress should and will work with the administration to approve permanent normal trade relations with the People's Republic of China, the PRC, as part of our support for its accession to the World Trade Organization, just as we support and will lead in the near simultaneity of Taiwan's accession to the WTO, a long-justified accession to the WTO that has been too long delayed.

We will support the accession of the PRC to the WTO because it is in our clear national interest to do so. At the same time, it is very important that we make it crystal clear to the PRC and the world that we are calmly but resolutely standing at the side of Taiwan, providing for the sale of necessary defensive weapons to it for its defense against any hostile or coercive action to force its reunification with the PRC through any process that is not a peaceful noncoercive one.

We are, by our recent actions regarding Taiwan making our continued positive, supportive, TRA-driven relationship with Taiwan unambiguous. We are proceeding in a two-track Taiwan-PRC policy; resolutely, unflinchingly, and unabashedly standing by Taiwan's side while demonstrating our willingness to engage with the PRC in a variety of ways when it is in our national interest to do so and when it is consistent with our region-stabilizing role to do so. We have benign motives for our great and many interests in Asia, but as a superpower, we will act like one and defend our national interest in the region and support all of our loyal allies.

Mr. Speaker, this Member urges his colleagues to join him in supporting the American Institute in Taiwan Facilities Enhancement Act.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3707. I thank my friend, the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) and the

gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER) for their good work on this legislation.

The recent election of President Chen was a monumental event in Taiwan's history. The peaceful transfer of power will stand as a model for all other nations struggling for the Democratic ideals that our Nation holds so dear. Under threats of violence from the People's Republic of China, the people of Taiwan demonstrated their desire to elect the candidate with the ability and the vision to lead them into the 21st century.

The United States must recognize its responsibility to assist the Taiwanese leadership in establishing a peaceful Taiwan. Any resolution to the dispute between China and Taiwan will be through peaceful negotiation with the ascent of the Taiwanese people.

Assisting Taiwan in their pursuit of a Democratic future, we must provide the American Institute in Taiwan with the necessary resources to perform all of their functions properly. The allocation of funds for planning, for acquisition, and for construction for a new facility is a clear gesture of the U.S.'s long-term commitment to the people of Taiwan.

The American Institute in Taiwan plays a valued role in U.S.A.-Taiwan relations. For more than 20 years, the AIT has implemented all programs and transactions for the United States Government in Taipei. But the current conditions of the AIT's facilities are undoubtedly inadequate. Built as temporary structures some 50 years ago, the cost of maintenance and repair are becoming increasingly more expensive. The facilities also have virtually no setback, and steps to meet security standards are not cost effective.

The AIT needs a modern and effective base of operations to perform its duties in these historical times. I urge my colleagues to support this measure.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I wish to commend my distinguished colleague and friend from Nebraska, the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Asia of our International Relations Committee, Mr. BEREUTER, for his leadership in introducing H.R. 3707, the American Institute in Taiwan Facilities Enhancement Act.

Under the provisions of the Taiwan Relations Act, the American Institute in Taiwan (AIT) is the unofficial entity through which we maintain our unofficial relationship with Taiwan. For the past twenty years, the AIT has served us well. I want to commend the individuals who have played such an important role in the activities of the AIT. In particular, I want to express appreciation for the current head of AIT, Richard Bush, who is a former outstanding member of the staff of the Subcommittee on Asia of the House International Relations Committee.

Mr. Speaker, as several of my colleagues have already emphasized, the current AIT facilities in Taipei are grossly inadequate. They were not designed for the important functions which AIT performs. They are old, having

been built over 50 years ago, and the facilities are increasingly difficult and expensive to maintain. Furthermore, authorities in Taiwan want back the land on which they are located.

From a security perspective, the facility is even more seriously inadequate. Following the bombings of our nation's embassies in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam, the concern for the security of all American facilities has increased. The AIT buildings in Taipei are dangerously inadequate. There is virtually no setback, and major security enhancements would be necessary to bring the facilities into compliance with current security standards. The legislation we are considering today requires that the new facility meet the embassy security standards set forth in the Omnibus Diplomatic Security and Antiterrorism Act of 1986 (commonly referred to as the Inman Standards) and the Security Embassy Construction and Counter Terrorism Act of 1999.

The Congress has already recognized the need to improve AIT's facilities, and the FY 2000 appropriations legislation included \$5 million for the design of a new facility. AIT staff, using standard cost factors unofficially provided by the State Department, have estimated that constructing a new facility would cost in the range of \$80 to \$100 million. This estimate is in line with recent construction costs of new embassy facilities, such as our Embassy in Nairobi. The staff of AIT has made a good faith effort and has set aside funds for capital construction, managing to accrue approximately \$25 million thus far. Therefore, an authorization of \$75 million, plus the \$25 million AIT already has on hand, should be sufficient to cover construction costs.

Mr. Speaker, United States relations with Taiwan are extremely important, and it is critical that AIT have an appropriate facility in Taipei. We must also protect the safety of those Americans and Taiwanese who work or conduct business at AIT in Taipei. This legislation represents a reasonable and responsible effort to deal with the inadequate facilities currently in use. I urge my colleagues to support this important piece of legislation.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3707, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill to authorize funds for the construction of a facility in Taipei, Taiwan suitable for the mission of the American Institute in Taiwan."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

COMMENDING LIBRARY OF CONGRESS FOR 200 YEARS OF OUTSTANDING SERVICE

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 269) commending the Library of Congress and its staff for 200 years of outstanding service to the Congress and the Nation and encouraging the American public to participate in bicentennial activities.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 269

Whereas the Library of Congress, America's oldest Federal cultural institution, was established on April 24, 1800, and in its 200 years of existence has become the largest and most inclusive library in human history;

Whereas the Library's mission is to make its resources available and useful to the Congress and the American people and to sustain and preserve a universal collection of knowledge and creativity;

Whereas, in furtherance of its mission, the Library has amassed an unparalleled collection of 119 million items, a superb staff of "knowledge navigators", and networks for gathering the world's knowledge for the Nation's good;

Whereas the Library, the Congress, and the Nation have benefitted richly from the work of thousands of talented and dedicated Library employees throughout the Library's 200-year history;

Whereas the citizens of the United States have generously contributed to the Library's collections through their own creativity, social and scholarly discourse, donation of materials in all formats, and generous philanthropic support;

Whereas the goal of the Library's bicentennial commemoration is to inspire creativity in the centuries ahead and remind Americans that all libraries are the cornerstones of democracy, encouraging greater use of the Library of Congress and libraries everywhere;

Whereas this goal will be achieved through a variety of national, State, and local projects, developed in collaboration with Members of Congress, the staff of the Library of Congress, libraries and librarians throughout the Nation, and the Library's James Madison Council and other philanthropic supporters;

Whereas the centerpiece of the bicentennial celebration is the Local Legacies Project, a joint effort of Congress and the Library of Congress to document distinctive cultural traditions and historic events representing local communities throughout the country at the turn of the 21st century; and

Whereas the bicentennial commemorative activities also include symposia, exhibitions, publications, significant acquisitions, the issuance of a commemorative coin and stamp, and enhanced public access to the collections of the Library of Congress through the National Digital Library: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the Congress commends the Library of Congress and its employees, both past and present, on 200 years of service to the Congress and the Nation and encourages the American public to participate in activities to commemorate the Library's bicentennial.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from

Michigan (Mr. EHLERS) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. EHLERS).

□ 1600

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to speak on this resolution today. I hope the Chair will indulge me as I go through some of my history of involvement in libraries and why I believe this is a very important resolution.

This story goes back many years to the time when I was a young lad in Minnesota. I had chronic asthma. I was unable to go to school, and did all my schoolwork at home. I was home schooled before people knew that term. And that left me with a great deal of time to read because I could do most of my schoolwork in 3 hours a day.

I lived in a small town of 800 people. We had a library that contained probably that same number of books, about 800 books. I believe I read every book in that library at least once, except for those that the librarian kept hidden under her desk, as they did in those days. This led me to a great interest in reading and a great appreciation for libraries.

As I grew up, I continued to value and treasure libraries and the resource they represent for our communities and for our country. Little did I know at that time that I would become involved in politics. I never expected to, never intended to, and yet here I am. But, on the way, I have served as a member of a county library board. I have served as a member of a city library board. I also served as a member of the Board of the State Library of Michigan. And now I am on the Joint Committee of the Library of Congress.

My experience with all these libraries increased my appreciation of libraries and librarians. Tremendous resources are available in libraries, and I found this out as I got into the academic world first at Calvin College and then at the University of California at Berkeley.

Coming from a very small town, I was just amazed at what I could find in a library not only in terms of books to read but also in material useful for research.

I also remember the first time I used the Library of Congress. I was engaged in academic research on energy resources sometime after the energy crisis of 1973, and I studied various aspects relating to scientific analysis of energy resources, the use of energy, alternative sources of energy, improving efficiency of energy use, and so forth.

On a trip to Washington, I spent a day at the Library of Congress doing research. I was just delighted with all the materials that I found there which